

# COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE NETWORK

*Children, Family & Futures*

## BEAR VALLEY COMMUNITY NETWORK

### MINUTES

January 12, 2004  
Parks and Recreation Community Room  
41220 Park Avenue  
Big Bear Lake, CA

#### **In Attendance:**

Eileen Hofer	LSS Family Resource Center	<a href="mailto:Lssptca5@earthlink.net">Lssptca5@earthlink.net</a>	909-866-5070
Elaine Holzer-Tennity	Hummingbird Project	<a href="mailto:tetennity@aol.com">tetennity@aol.com</a>	909-584-7158
Tanya Perry	Healthy Start		909-585-6257
Christine Sillman	BBES		909-584-5255
Terry Cottle	BVUSD	<a href="mailto:tlccottle@aol.com">tlccottle@aol.com</a>	909-633-0230
Mary Jaquish	First 5 San Bernardino	<a href="mailto:mjaquish@cfc.sbcounty.gov">mjaquish@cfc.sbcounty.gov</a>	909-386-7706
Ray Lozano	Big Bear Y2Y	<a href="mailto:Rl4dfy@hotmail.com">Rl4dfy@hotmail.com</a>	909-878-3302
Susan Melanson	Children's Network	<a href="mailto:Smelanson@hss.sbcounty.gov">Smelanson@hss.sbcounty.gov</a>	909-387-5394
Tammy Williams	Children's Network	<a href="mailto:tttwilliams@hss.sbcounty.gov">tttwilliams@hss.sbcounty.gov</a>	909-387-5365
Denise Smith	DOVES	<a href="mailto:denisesdovehe@yahoo.com">denisesdovehe@yahoo.com</a>	909-866-1546
Ron Seymour	Big Bear Network	<a href="mailto:ron@roundtown.net">ron@roundtown.net</a>	909-866-4154
Donna French	Operation Breakthrough	<a href="mailto:pbclean@bbr.net">pbclean@bbr.net</a>	909-866-5437
Genevieve Rubio	Big Bear Youth to Youth	<a href="mailto:Vivacious_gee@yahoo.com">Vivacious_gee@yahoo.com</a>	909-878-3302
Mary Norman	BV Comm. Health Care District	<a href="mailto:marybvchd@yahoo.com">marybvchd@yahoo.com</a>	909-878-8261
Lori Smith	Bear Valley Family Counseling		909-866-5721
Reese Troublefield	Big Bear Valley Parks & Rec	<a href="mailto:bigbearrec@yahoo.com">bigbearrec@yahoo.com</a>	909-866-9700
Debbie Halverson	BVUSD		
Jamie Morrow	LITE Center	<a href="mailto:mtnsilovetorun@yahoo.com">mtnsilovetorun@yahoo.com</a>	909-878-2691
Danita Craft	LITE Center	<a href="mailto:bblit@lib.sbcounty.gov">bblit@lib.sbcounty.gov</a>	909-866-4512
Brian Thomson	Dept. of Children's Svcs. – ARD	<a href="mailto:bthomson@hss.sbcounty.gov">bthomson@hss.sbcounty.gov</a>	909-387-9779
Edie Norris	Lutheran Social Services		

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Everyone was welcomed and self-introductions were made.

#### **2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

#### **3. Approval of December Minutes**

Change number 5 from Eileen Holzer-Tennity of the Hummingbird Project to Eileen Hofer of Lutheran Social Services. The minutes were approved with the correction noted.

**4. Guest Speaker: Brian Thomson, CWSM – Department of Children’s Services, Child Welfare Redesign.**

Handouts from this presentation are attached.

**Comments and Questions**

Elaine Holzer-Tennity of the Hummingbird Project asked: Why isn’t there a big brother/big sister program up here? It might be helpful for youth needing a role model.

Tanya Perry of Healthy Start responded: In 1989 there was a program up here and it failed due to the adult interest in being a big brother/sister. The application was 14 pages long with background checks included. The amount of work in the application process was a turn off. The whole process seemed very intimidating to people, but could revisit the idea.

Mary Jaquish of First 5 San Bernardino mentioned: The down side of the process is the precautionary measures taken to become a big sister or big brother. It goes beyond the applications including interviews with family members and spouses.

Susan Melanson of Children’s Network remarks: Funding is a problem with the budget. As DCS (Department of Children’s Services) Redesign is implemented we will see the change in funding. Budget cuts could slow down, but not stop the process. The process takes time to figure out and parts of DCS are mandated so they have to fund them. We need to help keep the family whole and raise kids to become better adults and family members. Need is need, not necessarily child abuse and CBOs (Community Based Organizations) respond to needs. We need to teach parenting, anger management and prevent child abuse on the front end to avoid potential crisis.

Tanya Perry of Healthy Start comments: The presentation at the Children’s Network conference put things in perspective. The mountains do not have social workers assigned to them from DCS, so all the agencies come together to address the local issues on their own. This process seems to work pretty well.

Comment: Since the budget cuts, CBOs might no longer exist leaving more pressure on everyone else in the system. The redesign efforts have been going on two years now. The Self-Assessment plan is due on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Self-improvement plan is due Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> and to be in place by the end of the year. There are things to get done now from improvements for outcomes.

Susan Melanson comments: The DBH (Department of Behavioral Health) contract is the first stop to get a clear picture of the need. The redesign will be a 10-year process overall to implement, which will include the family-to-family plan. There is a core team that meets on a monthly basis the Child Welfare Services Self-Assessment Team. We will have to invite Brian back in March to give us the numbers.

Brian Thomson wraps up: The DBH contract lost money and has cut services. The first step once you assess a child in placement over six months has to be a part of the plan regardless of funding. There has to be funding changes or shift because there is no new money, only existing money. There are 5,200 children in care and we need to find a suitable way to shift the money to try and

help them all, since DBH will not be able to complete all the assessments of children placed longer than 6 months the CBOs will need to assist in those efforts.

## **5. Handouts and Round Table Discussion**

Susan Melanson of Children's Network reported: Everyone should have the nomination forms for the Child Abuse Prevention Awards Breakfast. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. This years' campaign will again be a very comprehensive, multi-faceted campaign. We will be identifying and honoring those who work hard for children in our county. There is one change to this years' event, the categories will be rotated between two years. Last year the awards went too quickly to make a meaningful presentation so we are reducing them by half. The other half will be presented next year. Take note of the two example nominations attached to the nomination packet. The nominations should give a good description of the person in-depth, but concise as well. The deadline has been extended from February 9<sup>th</sup> to February 13<sup>th</sup>. The breakfast itself will be on March 31<sup>st</sup> at the Doubletree Hotel in Ontario at 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The price per person is \$10. We will pass out the Annual Report at next months' meeting, when it will be presented. If you need one sooner, our office can mail you a copy.

Mary Jaquish of First 5 San Bernardino reported: The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Faith and Justice Summit is coming up which we share with Riverside County. There is a flyer included in your agenda packet on the Annual Faith and Justice Summit. There is also a flyer in your packet about the Community Plea program, for citizens to do community service rather than serve jail time. Computer Associates International offers information on community involvement providing after school programs and equipment for day care centers. She mentioned some funding opportunities included in the packets. She will be attending a training hosted by KidCare America tomorrow, January 13th from 12-4 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. regarding a National Compassion grant. If you would like information, please let her know on Link for youth violence stats: [www.city.data.com](http://www.city.data.com). Mary mentioned she has additional information on an RFP (Request for Proposal) from the Department of Behavioral Health; CBOs' might be interested in applying for.

Tanya Perry of Health Start reported: Two job openings: Part Time- Full time, BA working with kids and families at school site, call for information: 909-585-7766.

Elaine Holzer-Tennity of the Hummingbird Project reported: They are moving offices soon for the Fire Safe Council, because they need more space. Feb 1<sup>st</sup> is a book sale for scholarships, please get the word out. Paperback books will be \$.25 and hardback will be \$.50, any extras will be donated to the library. The scholarship applications will be available for 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls interested in Science. Parents will be required to pay \$50 so their kids can spend one week at Whittier College or San Diego State, if they get accepted for the scholarship. The Hummingbird Project is alive and well. Come visit the store, they have lots of beautiful clothes. They recently got a donation from Southwest Gas and an Antique Car Club. Some computers will be set up for job searches in a Career Corner. They have a grant for back-to-school programs for backpacks. In the store they have cribs and baby things, sweats, jeans for a \$1 and t-shirts for \$.25. They are donating some of the extra computers to the after school program set up by the Assembly of God Church. They will then refurbish the computers and donate to families that need them. Susan Melanson suggested Elaine contact Jennifer Celise-Reyes of Children's Network, as she used to work with JESD (Jobs, Employment, Services Division) and would have some helpful information about sitting up a Career Corner.

Jamie Morrow of LITE Center reported: Their program is growing leaps and bounds. They continue with no funding and are hanging in there. They are using their imaginations and the parents are coming up with fun things to do. Library literacy announcements: Looking for volunteers, tutors and materials. The training is free for tutors. Please post a flyer to get the word out about the many services available at the library. Mother Goose program: go into situations with parents 1 hour a week doing art projects and modeling behavior to read to their children at home. A suggestion made to Jamie was to contact Renee through the MOMS (Mothers on Mountains) project (909) 878-8123 to see if they might be interested in the Mother Goose program. A group from 3 to 15 meets under the grant for literacy from Verizon.

Edie Norris of Lutheran Social Services reported: Business has been slow with 28 domestic violence calls for the month of January, but they usually pick up more referrals around Super bowl Sunday. They offer a Supervised Visitation Program to help families in their reunification efforts. Eileen referred everyone to a packet she distributed for referral and resources.

**Announcement: Februarys' agenda will cover the Strategic Plan for First 5 San Bernardino and Children's Network "new" Annual Report.**

6. **Next Meeting Date: February 9, 2004**  
**Parks and Rec. Community Room**  
**41220 Park Ave, Big Bear Lake**

Respectfully Submitted

Tammy Williams, Children's Network  
Bear Valley Community Network Recording Secretary

TGW/lmm